

# Texas Department of Transportation

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG. • 125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • (512) 463-8585

August 26, 2005

Mr. Stephen Richards, P.E.  
President, Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories  
1001 Congress Ave., Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Richards:

Thank you and the Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories for your comments on the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed certification program. We appreciate your concerns and offer the attached revised program. The revised program includes two stand-alone, shortened laboratory training courses (SB 101 and SB 202), a one-day stand-alone field training course (SB 102), and one mix design training course (SB 202) with SB 201 as a prerequisite. SB 101 and SB 201 will be held in the same week so that a student can sign up for either one course, or both courses back to back if desired. SB 102 will be held up to four times in one week, or can be held in the same week with SB 101 or SB 201, depending on the demand. SB 202 will periodically be offered the same week as SB 201.

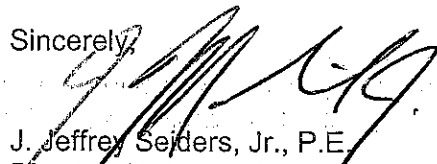
In addition to the training courses discussed above, recertification programs will be offered for SB 101, SB 102, and SB 201. These recertification programs will not include any training. They will include successful demonstration of the procedures and acceptable score on a written exam.

We maintain that the integrity of a certification program requires the use of common 'trainers and certifiers' and the strategy of utilizing train the trainers not be utilized at this time. We plan to provide the necessary oversight and also plan to move forward with the program headquartered at this time at the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (TxAPA) facility in Buda, Texas. After the program has been established we will explore the possibility of holding this training around the state.

We appreciate your concern that administration of a proficiency sample program for all certified technicians will be a huge endeavor. It is an important and necessary part of an effective quality assurance program, and we will strive to utilize an efficient, cost-effective process.

Feel free to contact either myself, or Caroline Herrera, P.E., if you would like to discuss the successful implementation of this important initiative further.

Sincerely,

  
J. Jeffrey Seiders, Jr., P.E.  
Director, Materials & Pavements Section  
Construction Division

Attachment: Spreadsheet  
cc: Thomas R. Bohuslav, P.E., CST Division  
Caroline Herrera, P.E., CSTM&P

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**SB 101: A 2 1/2 DAY TRAINING COURSE THAT WILL HAVE 12 STUDENTS**

**MONDAY MORNING, ALL**

INTRODUCTIONS, PAPERWORK, ITEMS 5 & 6, TEX-100, 101 PART I & II, 198

**MONDAY AFTERNOON**

START LAB 1 OR LAB 2, 6 STUDENTS PER LAB

LAB 1: TEX-104, 105, 106, 107

LAB 2: TEX-103, 110, 116

**TUESDAY MORNING**

STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED LAB 1 MONDAY AFTERNOON WILL COMPLETE LAB  
STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED LAB 2 MONDAY AFTERNOON WILL COMPLETE LAB

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

PRACTICE AND DEMONSTRATE TEST PROCEDURES

**WEDNESDAY MORNING**

TAKE THE WRITTEN TEST

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**SB 201: A 2 1/2 DAY TRAINING COURSE THAT WILL HAVE 6 - 8 STUDENTS**

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, ALL**

INTRODUCTIONS, PAPERWORK, ITEMS 5 & 6, TEX-100, 101 PART I & II, 198

**THURSDAY ALL DAY, ALL--3-4 STUDENTS AT EACH COMPACTOR**

TEX-113, 114, 117, and M/D CURVE

**FRIDAY MORNING**

PRACTICE AND DEMONSTRATE TEST PROCEDURES

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

TAKE THE WRITTEN TEST

**NOTE: SB 101 AND SB 202 WILL BE HELD IN THE SAME WEEK.**

**SB 102: A 1 DAY TRAINING COURSE THAT WILL HAVE 12 STUDENTS**

**MONDAY MORNING: ALL**

INTRODUCTIONS, PAPERWORK, ITEMS 5 & 6, TEX-100, 198

**MONDAY MORNING**

START LAB 1 OR LAB 2, 6 STUDENTS PER LAB

LAB 1: Tex-103, Tex-115

LAB 2: TEX-101, Part III, TEX-140

**Monday Afternoon**

FINISH LABS AND TAKE THE WRITTEN TEST

**NOTE: SB 102 WILL BE HELD UP TO 4 TIMES IN THE SAME WEEK.**

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**SB 202: A 2 1/2 DAY TRAINING COURSE THAT WILL HAVE 6 - 8 STUDENTS**

**MONDAY MORNING, ALL**

INTRODUCTIONS, PAPERWORK, ITEMS 5 & 6, TEX-100, TEX-101 PART I & II

**MONDAY AFTERNOON**

TEX-120, TEX-127

**TUESDAY MORNING**

TEX-121, TEX-128

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

PRACTICE AND DEMONSTRATE TEST PROCEDURES

**WEDNESDAY MORNING**

TAKE THE WRITTEN TEST

**NOTE: SB 201 IS A PREREQUISITE FOR SB 202**

SB 201 & 202 WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE SAME WEEK, PERIODICALLY